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The multipurpose two-way radio

Scanners vs. scramblers
Is eavesdropping on public safety radio a right?

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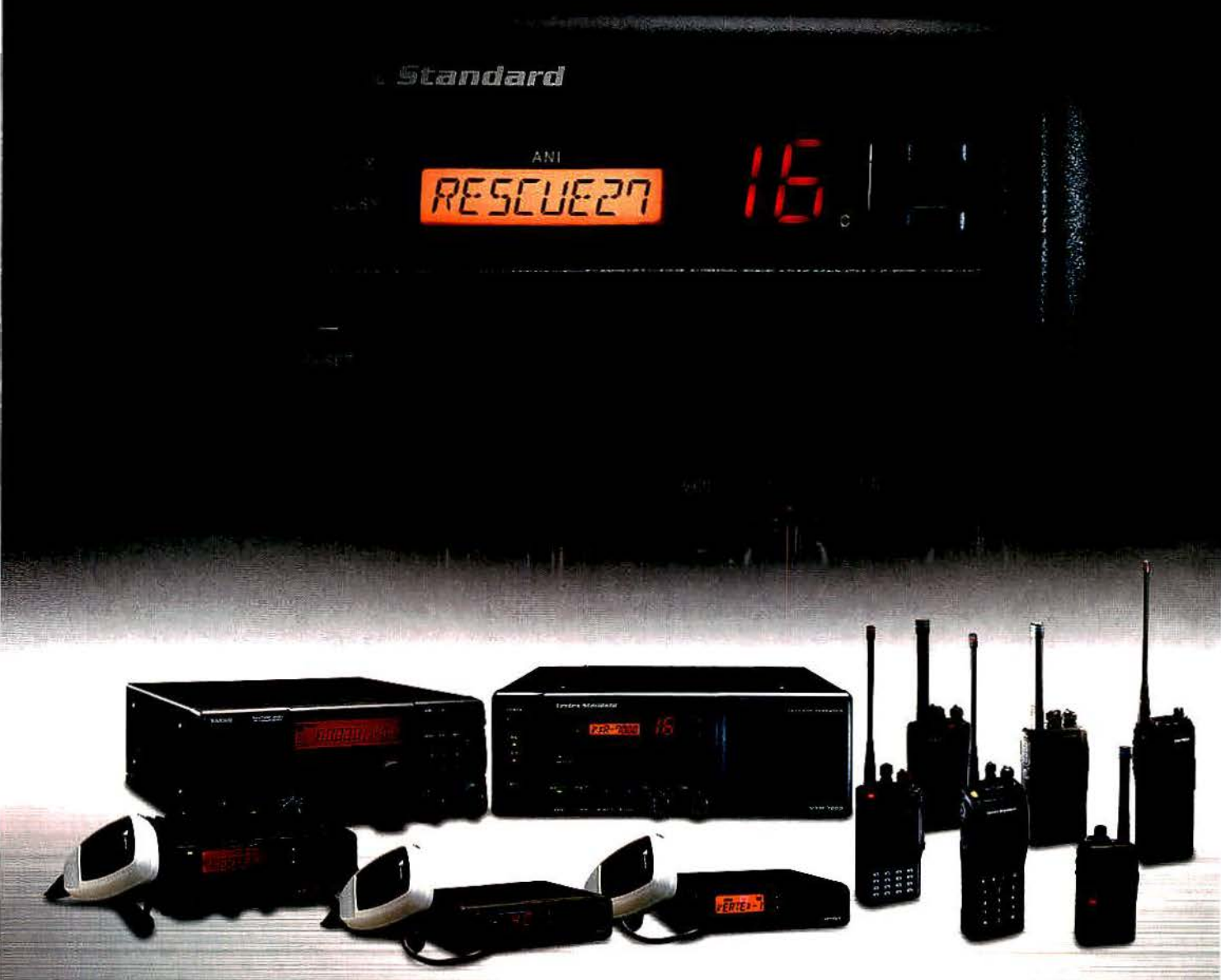

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JUNE 2002
Volume 20, Issue 6

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ON THE WEB AT WWW.MRTMAG.COM:

Virginia county gives Motorola disputed 800MHz contract
Fauquier County has approved a $7.2 million contract for a new Motorola 800MHz Astro digital trunked wireless communications system.

AT&T Wireless responds to UCAN interference complaint
AT&T Wireless appears to be ready to take steps that may mitigate radio interference reported by the Utah Communications Agency Network in Sandy, UT.

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Arlington, VA, Sept. 12, 2001: Exterior of the crash site following the attack on the Pentagon. *Photo by Jocelyn Augustino/ FEMA News Photo.*

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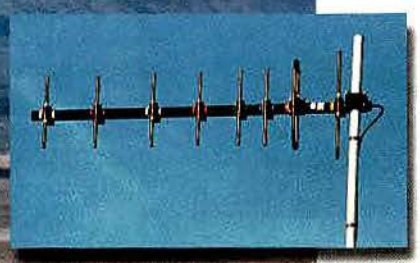

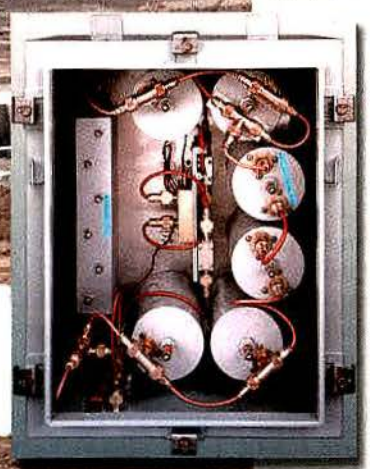

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CIRCLE (5) ON FAST FACT CARD

Scanner users vs. scramblers

What's more important: the safety of police officers, firefighters and emergency medical service crew members or the ability for people to listen to their radio communications?

Put it that way, and the answer seems simple. But listening to radio communications may involve important rights, such as free exchange of public information on the Internet and the use of radio receivers.

We've heard from a few readers who like to exchange frequency lists and monitor public safety communications. Some have interpreted the advertising of information security devices (scramblers) as tossing listeners into a category with criminals and terrorists.

They were reacting to an advertisement in last month's issue that pictured a young man viewing a computer display of radio frequencies and that showed a firefighter with a two-way radio. The ad copy suggested that the use of scramblers might improve homeland security.

The advertisement alarmed some scanner hobbyists.

'In the clear'

Let's make our position plain:

The use of receivers to listen to any radio signal that contains information transmitted "in the clear" (not scrambled or encrypted) should be unrestricted. That was our position before the passage of the 1986 Electronic Privacy Act, and that's our position now. The Act placed more restrictions on receiver use in the United States than a free society should have. It's wrong, but it's the law.

The Communications Act's restriction on the *use* of information heard by unintended listeners (such as those who monitor public safety communications and who, in an earlier age, could lawfully listen to common carrier transmissions) is sufficient.

Radio users who want to ensure the privacy of their communications should use scrambling or encryption to prevent it from being understood by unintended listeners. That notion not only flows from

our support of unrestricted receiver use, it recognizes that possible sanctions do little to deter someone using a receiver to further an unrelated criminal act.

For example, if a bank robber is undeterred by a possible prison sentence of 20 years to life, he won't worry about a possible fine for using a receiver to listen to the bank's security service frequencies.

Here's another thing: No reasonable person would begrudge a public safety agency's use of scrambling or encryption to protect their people during tactical operations.

For example, police officers, firefighters and emergency medical service crew members responding to emergencies involving hostages, snipers, armed assailants and a variety of other volatile circumstances can be well-served by scrambled or encrypted radio communications that cannot be understood by criminals, reporters and the public.

Meanwhile, the public can be well-served when public safety communications involving fires and vehicle collisions can be monitored and reported for the benefit of commuters. Maybe you know of other examples when members of the public have rendered aid as a result of something heard on receivers.

Free speech; no censorship

Now, about advertising in general: Most advertising is protected free speech. We would no more censor an advertiser's message than we would censor a guest editorial or a letter to the editor that takes a position contrary to ours.

And about the particular advertisement in question: A frequency-searching computer user *can* compromise the security of public safety workers, including firefighters. Such a user might be a stringer for a newsgathering organization, might otherwise pass the information along in such way that it falls into mischievous hands, or might himself be someone with a harmful purpose. A firefighter responding to an emergency is entitled to as much protection as possible. Under some conditions, that protection should extend to communications.

Protecting public safety workers shouldn't involve restrictions on receiver or computer use, but it may well involve scrambling or encryption. The advertisement was placed to sell a product, but it also did a service in reminding public safety agencies that radio transmissions made "in the clear" may, at just the wrong time, be heard by a listener who might misuse what he hears in a way that—intentionally or not—places lives, health or property at risk.

Don Bishop

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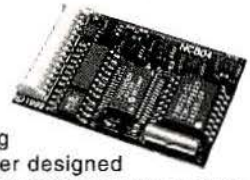

The Model NC804 is a micro-miniature voice-plus pseudo-random rolling code scrambler designed to provide high level security for two-way radio voice communiction systems. It's unique digital encryption processing algorithm, plus it's many features makes the Model NC804 a perfect cost effective solution for high-end voice encryption scrambling for commercial users, police departments, public safety organizations and other systems as a defense against unauthorized interception of private and sensitive voice transmissions by casual or even the most determined listeners. The Model NC804 features 8 user code keys with over 20 trillion codes to choose from. Kill disable for stolen or lost radios, over the air programming for changing of units operating parameters without removal from radio. Measuring .90" W x 1.30"L x .22"H, the Model NC804 supports limited space applications and is plug compatible with our popular Model NC802 voice inversion scrambler making it ideal for system upgrades.

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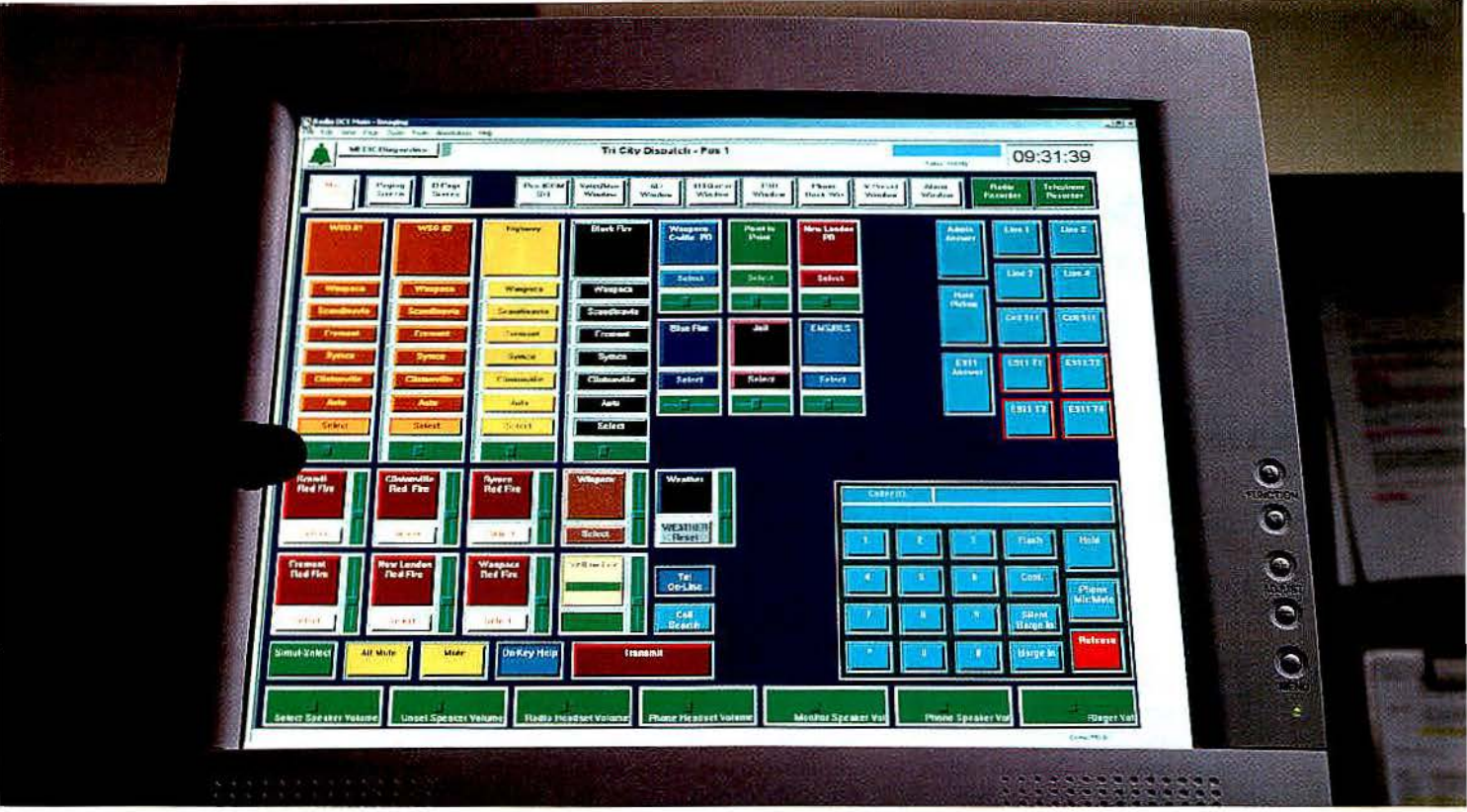

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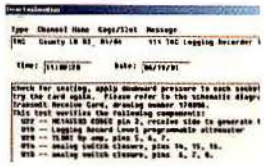

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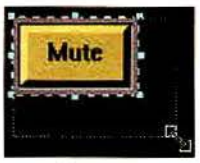

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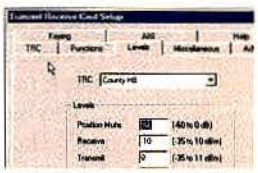

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Interoperability: It's about saving lives

When a hijacked plane hit the Pentagon on Sept. 11, interoperability helped public safety agencies respond quickly. This incident is just one example of how successful radio communications can save costs, resources and lives.

By James Careless

Interoperability saves lives and speeds response.

At no time was this proven more clearly than on Sept. 11, after the attack on the Pentagon. In contrast to the attack on New York, where a lack of network interoperability hampered rescue efforts, most police, fire and EMS crews responding in the District were able to talk to one another easily. The results—as we shall see—speak for themselves.

The Sept. 11 Pentagon response isn't the only instance in which interoperability has made a difference. Moreover, quick response isn't the only advantage offered by interoperable public radio systems, although it is the most dramatic.

Interoperability also helps to reduce per-agency costs while boosting network performance and coverage. It's a smart way to overcome budget constraints and environmental concerns, and it fosters cooperation among police, fire and EMS agencies.

Increased cooperation cannot come too soon; in the wake of Sept. 11, there's no room for turf fights among public safety services. With the ominous, continuing threat of similar horrific attacks, creating interoperable networks is a good way to foster cooperation on a larger scale and a relatively unthreatening way to begin.

Interoperability can mean putting everyone on a common frequency with common modulation, but it doesn't have to. Sharing portable radios among departments, so that messages can be exchanged during emergencies, is another form of interoperability.

So, too, is the ACU-1000 Modular Interconnect System. As described in the February 2002 issue of *Mobile Radio Technology* ("Chicago Blazes a Trail to Interoperability"), the ACU-1000 lets you plug in as many as 10 radios, whatever their frequencies, and connect them as if you were using a telephone switch.

Careless is a freelance telecommunications writer based in Ottawa, ON, Canada. His email address is *james@tjtdesign.com*.

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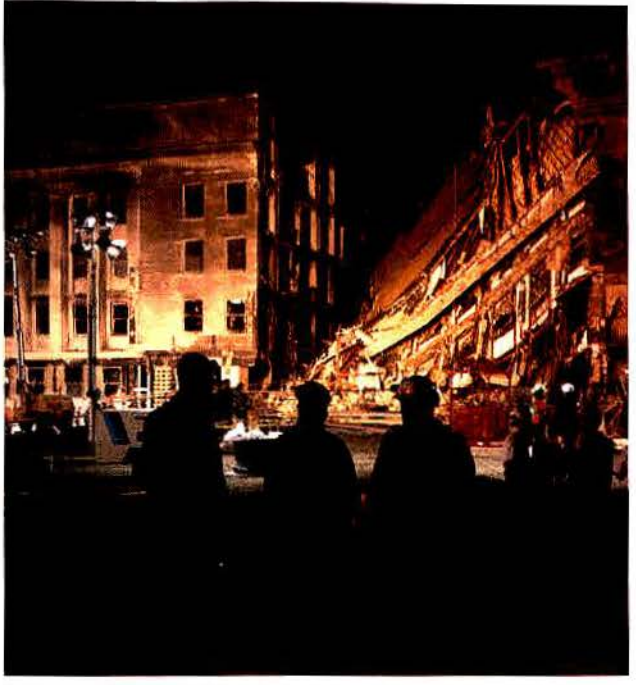

Arlington, VA, Sept. 12, 2001 — Exterior of the crash site following the attack on the Pentagon. *Photo by Jocelyn Augustino/ FEMA News Photo.*

But interoperability isn't just about hardware; it's about cooperation and shared planning—which leads us to Washington.

Interop lifeline

Jan. 13, 1982: Air Florida Flight 90 crashed into the 14th St. bridge during a snowstorm. More than 70 people lost their lives when the wreckage sank into the river.

Police, fire and EMS crews quickly responded to the scene, only to discover that they couldn't coordinate their efforts because they couldn't talk to each other by radio.

Almost 21 years later, the hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon. Again, lives were lost. But this time, radio communications were different. Local public safety agencies—and the governments that fund them—had learned from the Air Florida tragedy. This time, they *could* talk to each other.

> The bottom line: On Sept. 11, 2001, 'the public safety networks in Washington worked well.' —Deputy Chief John Clayton

In fact, 900 users were able to communicate on an 800MHz digital system, everyone from Washington Police to Arlington County, VA, rescue, plus 48 other agencies. Thanks to mutual aid plans already signed and coordinated by the region's Metropolitan Council of Governments and a history of joint mass-emergency drills by the area's public safety agencies, everyone knew how to work together on Sept. 11.

Best yet, Washington-area agencies had instituted a formal Incident Command System for large emergencies before the attack, so the chain of command was clear.

The bottom line: On Sept. 11, 2001, "the public safety networks in Washington worked well," said Deputy Chief John Clayton of Washington's Fire and Emergency Medical Services. "The only real challenge, as far as radio communications was concerned, was that some out-of-town companies didn't have 800MHz radios, so we had to set up relays."

This one gap in interoperability was cited in a report, "Answering the Call: Communications Lessons Learned from the Pentagon Attack." Issued by the Public Safety Wireless Network Program, a joint effort sponsored by the U.S. Departments of Justice and the Treasury, the report noted that "during the initial response, the majority of local public safety responders experienced no difficulty in establishing interoperable communications on the scene. This was because of the high-level of regional coordination and agreements previously established. However, as the number of state and federal agencies (secondary responders) increased at the site, interoperability presented new challenges. No means of direct interoperability was immediately available to these secondary response agencies."

Nevertheless, the overall response to the Sept. 11 Pentagon attack was a ringing endorsement for interoperability. "It made the difference," said PWSN program manager Rick Murphy. 'The Pentagon incident demonstrated in a very public way how critically important communications capabilities are for public safety agencies."

Florida defense

As monstrous as they are, terrorist attacks aren't the only problems public safety networks face.

In South Florida, various levels of government face radio-related problems. For the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and the U.S. Border Patrol, one challenge involves illegal immigrants from Cuba. For the Florida Highway Patrol, it's watching the region's freeways. And the Miami-Dade Police Department polices one of the nation's busiest areas.

With financial help from PSWN, all three levels of government increased their cooperation. Rather than continuing to operate apart, "we set up three hubs," said the MDPD's Capt. Jesse Varnell. "One handles local government; the second handles state agencies, and the third supports federal users like the INS, the U.S. Customs service, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Border Patrol."

Through these hubs, everyone can talk to one another. "We can go car-to-car with state, federal, and local agencies," said Varnell. "We can also patch an FBI officer through the Border Patrol's hub directly to a MDPD tactical unit, and back again with no problems."

Still, not all of these agencies operate radios on the same wavelength. For instance, the MDPD is on 800MHz, and the state police is on 155MHz.

No problem: PSWN has supplied Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties with a TRP-1000, the transportable version of JPS Communications' ACU-1000 radio switch. "If we're faced with a mass immigration

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CIRCLE (10) ON FAST FACT CARD

Today, this interoperable facility is saving money and hassles, while helping its state and federal users save lives.

coming in from the sea, we can drive the TRP-1000 to the scene and plug in our various radios," said Varnell. "This way, we can all communicate with each other."

So, even though they haven't migrated to the same bandwidth, agencies in South Florida can talk to one another as needed.

Montana's new tower and transmitter site, a result of PSWN's funding, is in Red Lodge.

Montana improvement

In Montana, the federal Bureau of Land Management had a radio problem. Its transmitter building at Red Lodge was run down and in need of repair.

The bureau wasn't alone; two other public safety sites in the area were in similar dire straits, said Douglas King, the BLM's telecommunications manager in Montana. "All of the buildings were several decades old and poorly constructed," he said. "We were all ready to tear them down and start again."

Enter PSWN with funding and coordination help. The result: Six agencies—the BLM, the FBI, the U.S. Forest Service, Carbon County, the Montana Department of Transportation and Montana's Highway Patrol—pooled their operations into a single location. Known as the Palisades Project, the new tower and transmitter site is in Red Lodge.

"I think it was the right way to go," said King. "No one single agency could have afforded to build such a facility. In the long run, we'll all save a huge amount of money, while providing solid, coordinated coverage for the public."

The Palisades site construction began in 2000 and soon shut down for much of a long, dry summer because of the fire risk. Then, when winter arrived, the site was buried by snow and the road was taken out by a landslide.

Still, the Palisades site was officially opened in September 2001. Today, this interoperable facility is saving money and hassles, while helping its state and federal users save lives.

Lessons learned

Put plainly, interoperability makes sense. It's a cost-saver, a resource saver and a life-saver.

Moreover, interoperability encourages inter-agency cooperation. This, in turn, improves overall emergency response for police, fire and EMS.

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CIRCLE (12) ON FAST FACT CARD

Demystifying software radio

Looking for a "magic bullet" two-way radio that covers all frequency bands, all channel bandwidths, all modulation techniques and all control and signaling protocols? Look no more—it's *software-defined radio.*

By Stephen Bartlett

Taken to its logical extreme, a software-defined radio loaded with every imaginable software—plus frequency coverage and a tiny power pack worthy of a science fiction novel—could be used in any mode, on any frequency, anywhere in the world.

In a software-defined radio, transmitter modulation is generated or defined by a computer, and the receiver uses a computer to recover signal intelligence. Need interoperability among public safety agencies regardless of frequency band and standard or proprietary protocol? Need compatibility, wide-area coverage and data features for business users? That's some of the promise—taken to the extreme, mind you—of software-defined radio.

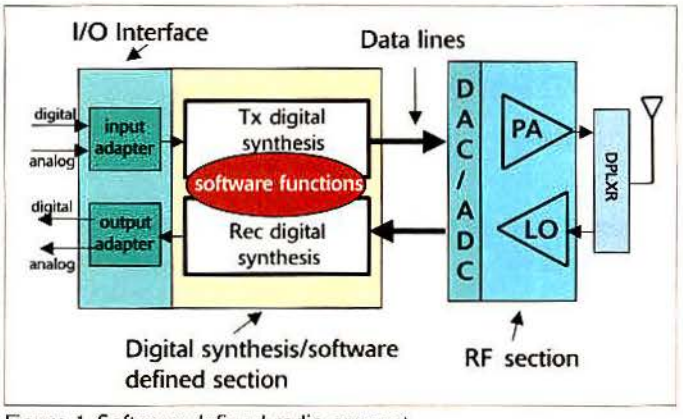

Figure 1. Software-defined radio concept.

Public safety agencies should watch software-defined radio development for its potential to replace expensive network-based interoperability often required for multiple-agency emergency response. Also, it offers first responders the potential to save money on mobile and portable equipment replacement through its compatibility with legacy and future systems.

Commercial mobile radio service providers, as well as business and industrial end-users, can benefit from reduced network management costs, more competitive features and the ability to form wide-area coverage alliances.

If you've recently signed up for the latest cellular or PCS mobile wireless phone services, you've probably had services with choices from: coverage area, free minutes, email service, Web surfing, shoe shining, you name it. Whether you chose all of these, or only a few, you most likely opted for the best coverage you could get for the best price. If so, the phone you now own is one example of a software-defined radio—a programmable, dual-mode (analog/digital), multiband (cellular/PCS) wireless device.

Software-defined radio covers several types of technology and can mean different things. To simplify, three categories can be used to classify SDR technology: multistandard terminals, reconfigurable radios and the flexible architecture radio.

Multistandard terminal — Although not a pure software radio, the MST is a programmable radio (generally a base station terminal) capable of operating on many air interface standards. These terminals support wider roaming areas and provide mobile users with backward- and forward-compatibility as wireless technology evolves.

Reconfigurable radio — Wireless devices with software and firmware that can be reconfigured through programming hardware, including modern dual-mode, tri-band phones and many modern digital two-way radios, fit this category.

Flexible architecture radio — All characteristics of this radio are programmable. An ideal FAR would be able to configure the number of up and down conversion stages, intermediate frequencies, filter bandwidths, modulation and waveforms, and RF bands. This is essentially the Holy Grail—the "one radio fits all"—of software radio. We're definitely not there yet.

The SDR technology vision is to make common hardware to perform many functions and operate with numerous protocols defined by resident software that can be changed when different functions, features or protocols are required. This can reduce costs with less maintenance and easier upgrading.

Fixed terminals, or base stations, normally are restricted to assigned frequencies and protocols for specific coverage areas. Mobile terminals and handsets require more flexibility to roam between coverage areas, with different frequencies and protocols.

Bartlett is a wireless systems engineer and consultant for terrestrial and space applications. His email address is *radio.bartlett@verizon.net.*

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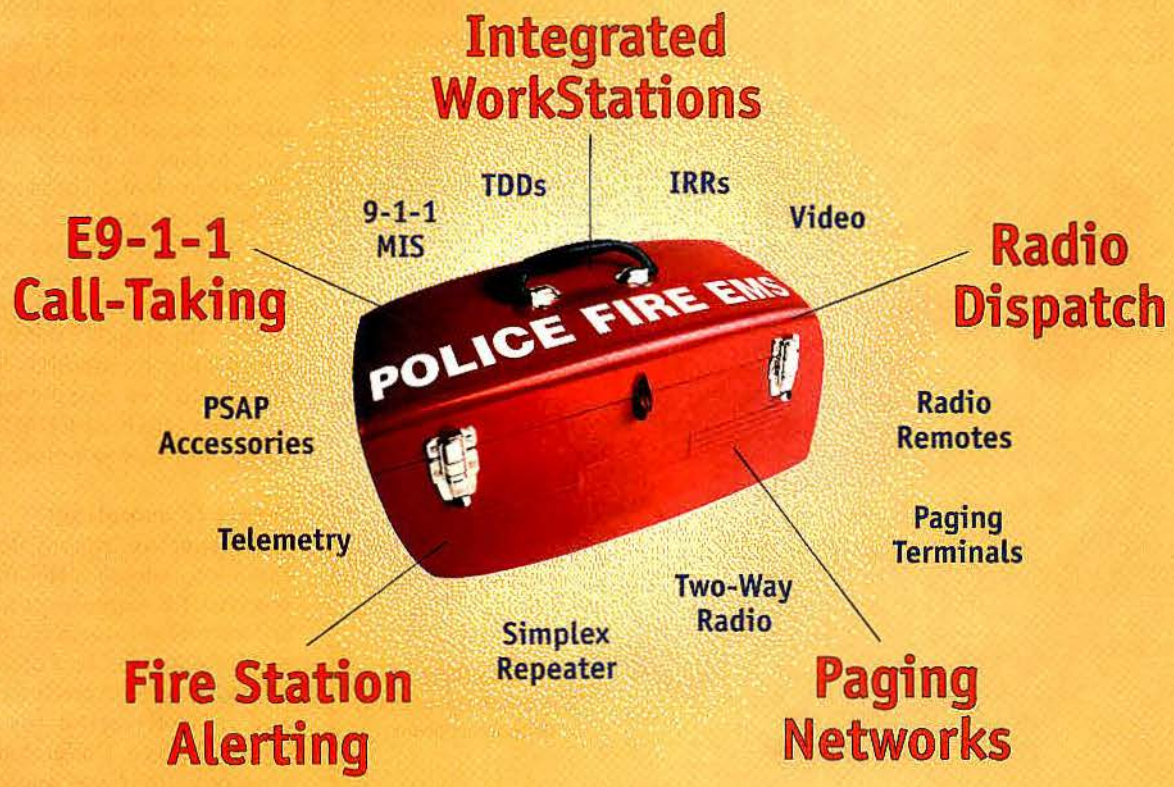

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CIRCLE (13) ON FAST FACT CARD

The software radio can be divided into three sections (see Figure 1): input and output interface, digital synthesis and software-defined section, and RF section. Designers want to keep the information signal digital until it is absolutely necessary to convert to analog. Ideally, the signal stays digital right up to the antenna, where transmit and receive RF stages perform signal conversions associated with RF amplification.

One way to do this in base stations is to string fiber optic transmission line up the tower into the RF "black box" attached to the antenna array. This method would promote the use of more efficient, lower-power, lower-temperature RF circuitry. Without coaxial cable signal losses, less RF power would be necessary for transmission and low-gain, low-noise amplifiers would give satisfactory reception. System downtime and repair or replacement costs caused by moisture that penetrates coax would also be eliminated.

Digital hardware limits — Several technologies must mature before the ideal FAR can be made. The most critical need is for ultra-high-speed digital hardware that can host software with low latency.

When the SDR receiver samples signals digitally to convert them from analog to digital (ADC), or vice-versa (DAC), the sample rate must be at least *twice* as fast as the highest frequency or bandwidth sampled—so says the Nyquist Theorem. The capability to filter the signal in the minimum acceptable bandwidth and the availability of speed-compatible converters (ADC and DAC) dictate where and how sampling is done.

Direct IF sampling

Another approach, direct IF sampling, samples the incoming received RF signal at a rate that is twice the information bandwidth frequency. This approach is also referred to as *undersampling*, and is well-suited for speed-limited devices. Undersampling is an especially clever approach for detecting broad-bandwidth signals (high-speed data and video), but it has limited use in typical, very narrow bandwidth applications (low-speed data and voice). Direct IF sampling can eliminate much of the costly analog hardware needed for demodulation followed by lowpass filters to feed the baseband sampling circuit.

Most common ADC technology limits the rate of passband and direct receiver sampling to an upper bound of 30MHz—about 60 million-samples per second (Msps). Manufacturers of newer high-speed ADCs are quoting sampling rates up to 300Msps or greater, which could sample up to the middle of the VHF band, about

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CIRCLE (9) ON FAST FACT CARD

150MHz. For higher frequencies, the RF signal must be down-converted to a lower frequency.

For now, software-based radios need special hardware for up and down IF conversion, filters and IF amplifiers because of the limitations of high-speed digital electronics. With densely packed integrated circuits, placing enough gates requires unrealistic power and size growth to accommodate the ideal FAR. Most SDRs include high-density application-specific integrated circuits (ASICs) and field-programmable gate arrays (FPGAs). But even these devices are being stressed by the 3G cellular technologies pushing for release. Although these new 3G technologies have been delayed for several reasons, foremost is a lack of practical hardware.

New hybrid digital signal processors, *associative string processors*, incorporate large numbers of specialized processors. Several manufacturers claim to have such devices ready for 3G systems elsewhere in the world.

Software latency – Software will provide ultimate SDR flexibility. The more processors in the hardware, the more software can be a part of the radio—for a price.

Processors generally call for service requests from specific software objects. Making these calls internal to a processor, or externally from another processor in the radio, takes valuable run time. Although internal processor calls have delays in tens of microseconds, external calls may have throughput delays on the order of milliseconds.

Millisecond delays are not usually an issue for typical data traffic, but such delays can be a serious problem for real-time communications such as emergency voice calls. As more features are programmed into the FAR—features are always added—these delays will grow. Delays are not usually an issue for typical data traffic, but can be a serious problem for real-time communications.

One solution is to move as many of the unchanging FAR functions as possible into hardware and firmware. Then, fewer software functions requiring service requests will need to be accommodated. Even so, as the newer, high-speed, processor-dense hardware becomes available, these systems will become feature-rich, requiring software latency to be closely managed during development to prevent uncontrolled latency growth—a computer evolution lesson learned.

Software radio has passed its newborn stage of development, but it still has a long journey ahead. We will watch it grow up as new commercial wireless systems are deployed. Maybe it's time to take some refresher software courses? ■

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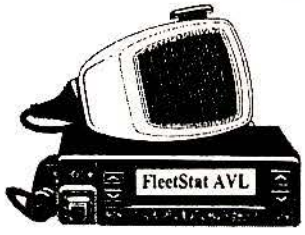

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SRM-25	20	25	3½ x 19 x 9¾	6.5
SRM-30	25	30	3½ x 19 x 9¾	7.0

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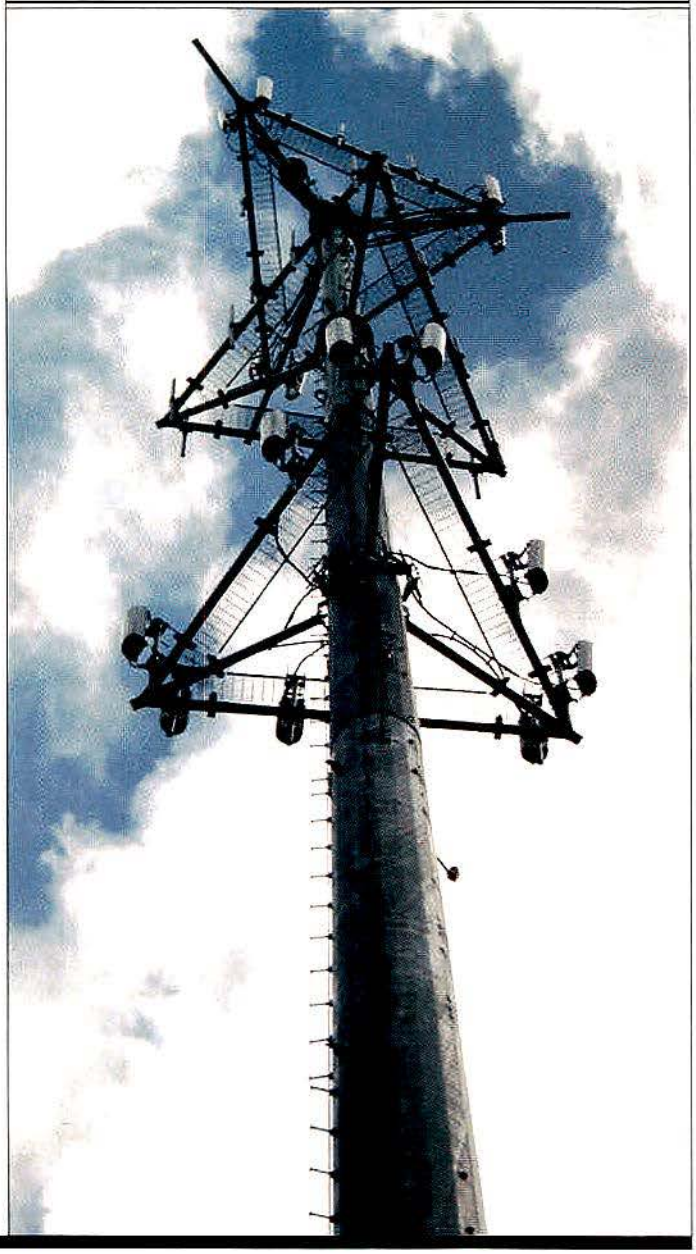

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Futurecom Systems Group

Futurecom provides RF coverage extension products and systems, facilitating wide-area, local-area and enclosed-area coverage. Its main products include channel-selective repeaters, tri-band directional smart-line amplifiers, cross-band and in-band vehicular repeaters.

WWW.FUTURECOM.COM

IDA

IDA is a leading designer and manufacturer of LTR trunking controllers, DTMF microphones, desktop remote controllers and mini consoles including trunking, tone, dc, VoIP and APCO P25-compatible equipment. Other offerings include AVL systems, mobile data equipment, dispatch networking systems, LTR kits for Motorola radios and FleetSync CAD/messaging software.

WWW.IDACO.COM

JPS Communications

JPS Communications manufactures receiver comparators that vote conventional analog and trunking signals, cross-band interfaces that interconnect multiple radio bands and radio VoIP interfaces for wide-area interoperability systems.

WWW.JPS.COM

Midian Electronics

Midian Electronics manufactures voice encryption and tone signaling products for two-way radio. These products are used by public safety, fleet and industrial users.

WWW.MIDIANS.COM

M/A-COM

M/A-COM's Opensky wireless private network is a packet-switch digital mobile communications network with integrated voice and data. It operates over an IP backbone.

WWW.MACOM.COM/OPENSKY

Modular Communications Systems/Moducom

The UltraCom E9-1-1/ radio dispatch console system is a cost-effective, digital, user-programmable system with pop-up windows and built-in diagnostics. It is a single software application; just add hardware. The software is upgraded for free. For a free demonstration, see the Web site.

WWW.MODUCOM.COM

Norcomm

The model NC804 is a microminiature voice plus rolling code encryption

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WWW.NORCOMMCORP.COM

Telex Communications

Vega and Land Mobile Products Group

Telex is a manufacturer of communications VoIP control consoles (from a single line to 24-line), radio termination adapter panels, amplifiers, line bridging modules, and radio headsets and ear microphones designed to be used with most portable radios. Combat and SWAT headset designs fit comfortably under helmets or around the head.
WWW.VEGA-SIGNALING.COM

TELEWAVE, INC.

Telewave

Telewave designs and manufactures antennas, combiners, filters, towertop preselectors, duplexers, wattmeters and many other wireless system products covering 2MHz to 2.7MHz.
WWW.TELEWAVE.COM

Thunder Eagle

Thunder Eagle is a designer, manufacturer and distributor of weather alert radios for emergency management and other professional users.
WWW.THUNEAGLE.COM

STANDARD HORIZON

Vertex Standard

With experience in land mobile radio, Vertex Standard offers a wide variety of public-safety equipment from cross-band repeaters to public safety portables and mobiles.
WWW.VXSTD.COM

W&W Manufacturing

W&W Manufacturing manufactures two-way radio replacement batteries, chargers and analyzer/conditioners. More than 200 charger and analyzer adapter cups are available for land-mobile radios, cellphones and laptops.
WWW.WW-MANUFACTURING.COM

ZETRON

Zetron

The model 4020 is a 20-channel, common controller that supports as many as six Series 4000 operating positions, including the model 4217NT dispatch workstation, the model 4217B CRT console, the model 4118 rackmount button console and the model 4018 desktop button console. The architecture is identical to the model 4048.
WWW.ZETRON.COM

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CIRCLE (22) ON FAST FACT CARD

Nextel's international unit files for bankruptcy protection

A unit of Nextel Communications, Reston, VA, has filed for protection from creditors under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy code.

NII Holdings (formerly named Nextel International Inc.), announced on May 24 that it would restructure its debt, reducing the amount it owes creditors from $2.7 billion to less than $500 million. In reaching an agreement with creditors, the company made a commitment to obtain $190 million in new capital, including $140 million from bondholders. Nextel Communications would provide the remaining $50 million in return for a cross-border, spectrum-sharing agreement.

Nextel Communications lost an estimated $2 billion that it invested in NII, including about $750 million in cash and stock poured into the company during 2001. At the end of last year, the parent company wrote off $1.7 billion of the amount it had spent on NII.

After the restructuring, creditors will own 55% of NII, with Nextel Communications' stake reducing to 45%.

Motorola has agreed to defer principal payments on the secured vendor financing it provided for NII's purchase of its equipment.

Unsecured creditors also are to receive equity in the reorganized company. *—DB*

Feds give Johnson $1.2 million P25 order

The E. F. Johnson company has received a $1.2 million order for Project 25 digital radio products from an unspecified agency of the federal government.

The agency ordered 100W mobile radios with hand-held controllers from Johnson, a subsidiary of Lincoln, NE-based Transcrypt International. Transcrypt's chairman, Michael E. Jalbert, said that the company previously supplied such radios to the federal government and expects additional orders.

David L. Hattey, Johnson's president, said that the company's market share of federal government sales has increased thanks to the P25 product line.

—DB

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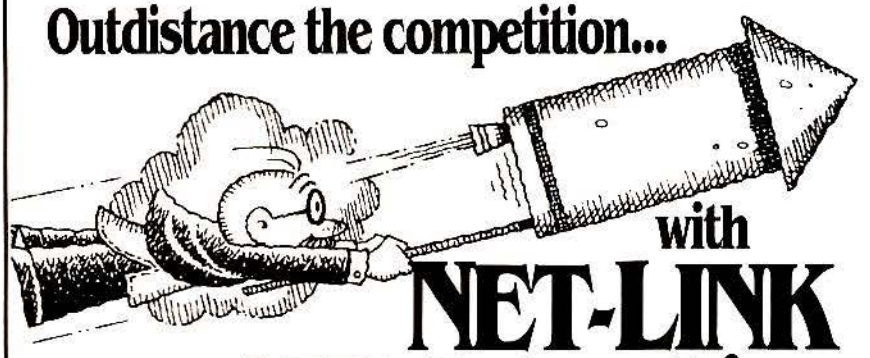

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U.S. Patents 5,444,433 - 5,574,999 - D.377,795

CIRCLE (24) ON FAST FACT CARD

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CIRCLE (25) ON FAST FACT CARD

20 years of consolidation: Bigger is not always better

As our magazine celebrates its 20th year, Pete Brake takes a look in the crystal ball:

Hindsight is 20/20. So instead, I'm going to go out on limb (not an unfamiliar perch for a small business person in the 21st century) and discuss what I see happening in the wireless industry over the *next* 20 years.

The last couple of decades have seen consolidation, with bigger players acquiring many of the smaller ones. This has reduced the number of competitors, but it has not made the marketplace any less competitive. As a smaller player still hanging on to independence, I sometimes recall a concept a friend from the medical profession shared with me. He told me about the theory that "nature tends to the norm." In other words, even as we evolve, nature seeks a leveling point.

Nature senses when the relationship is unbalanced—as when two prize-winning horses have been bred to produce an individual that has received traits in part from one parent and in part from the other. But the two just don't fit to produce the same mechanics.

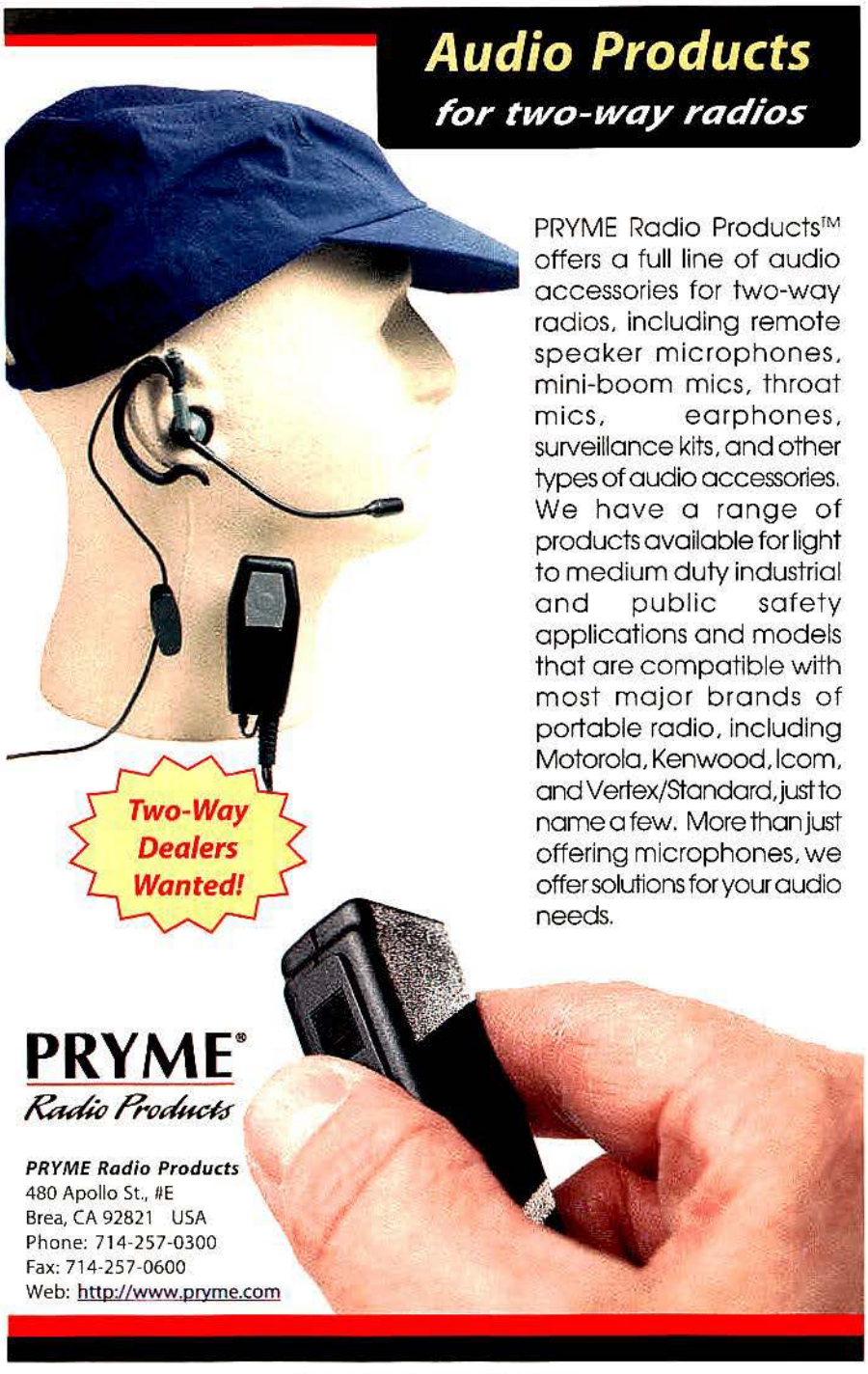
The same is true in business. Although merging two companies may make a more impressive entity, the combination may be less effective. Bigger is not always better.

First, we smaller companies have the ability to respond more quickly to emerging trends, and second, we have the capacity to provide stellar customer service. By consistently leveraging our flexibility and service capabilities, we will continue to find successful niches within the wireless communications field.

On the other hand, the FCC and other regulatory agencies tend to favor larger companies. Bigger organizations will continue to have the ear of decision-makers in a way that smaller entities seldom do.

So, as "nature tends to the norm," small companies have the opportunity to thrive through flexibility and responsiveness and larger organizations can flourish through volume and influence. Ultimately, there will be a place for all of us to prosper during the next 20 years.

—Peter D. Brake
President and General Manager
A/F CommSupply
Lenexa, KS

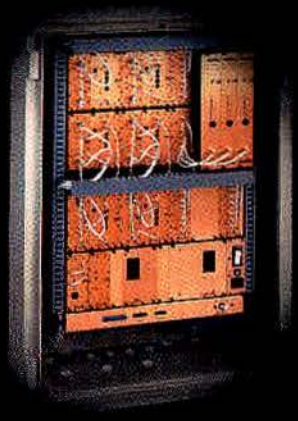


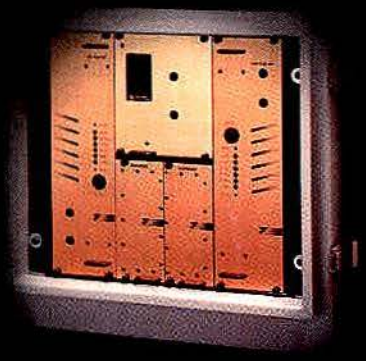
CIRCLE (26) ON FAST FACT CARD

broad-band amplifiers

vehicular repeaters

channel-selective repeaters





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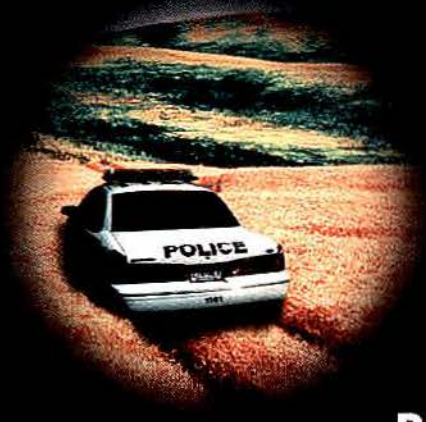


RF coverage by design

1-800-701-9180

CIRCLE (27) ON FAST FACT CARD

Lightning protectors handle induced signals

Huber + Suhner's 3406 Slim Line lightning protectors provide surge protection for links between indoor and outdoor wireless communications equipment connected to coaxial lines to 5.8GHz, including base stations and subscriber units. The gas capsules' protection principle supports simultaneous transmission of RF, data and dc. The gas capsules are fixed integrated. The protectors can handle any induced surge signals, including a one-time 10kA strike or multiple 5kA strikes. Slim Line is available with N, TNC and BNC connectorization and is bulkhead-mountable.

WWW.HUBERSUHNERINC.COM

Rods offer low-impedance grounding

The K-Rod from **ERI** offers low-impedance grounding. The product is available in vertical and horizontal configurations and in single-piece lengths from four to 20 feet. The rods are also available with silver solder flange connections, which allow continuous lengths to more than 100 feet. The copper K-Rod constantly conditions the surrounding soil with a self-contained electrolyte enhancer.

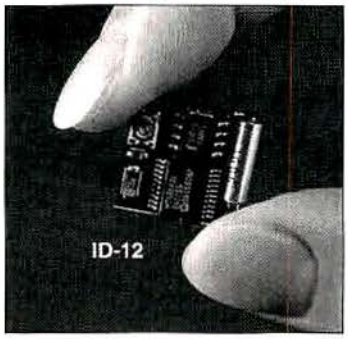
WWW.ERIINC.COM

Catalogs feature grounding equipment

Sabre Site Solutions' catalogs include Sabre lightning kits and grounding equipment. The *Tower Parts and Accessories Catalog* and *Wireless Equipment Catalog* expand Sabre's offerings to include thousands of products and accessories. The catalogs include antennas, antenna mounts, transmission line, transmission line accessories, tower and site accessories and hardware and tools.

WWW.SABRECOM.COM

Digital ANI MDC-1200® Signaling



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www.ControlSignal.com

Control Signal's ID-12/1201 is an economical **MDC-1200** ANI system. The ID-12 encoder works in all radios and fits in virtually all handhelds and mobiles. The ID-1201 decodes any **MDC-1200** ANI signal, has a large LED display, a printer port and an RS232 port.

MDC-1200 is a registered trademark of Motorola Inc.

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CIRCLE (28) ON FAST FACT CARD

Binding post makes connections to ground

Superior Electric's all-metal grounding BP-30GP10 5-Way binding post makes rapid connections to ground. The binding post is nickel-plated and polished with finely machined brass. Its functional design complements other standard-size hex nut 5-Way binding posts.

WWW.SUPERIORELECTRIC.COM

Monitor warns of ground degradation

Lyncole XIT Grounding's GRM 2000 RS monitors ground system performance and provides an early warning of ground system degradation or loss of integrity. The system consists of a permanent wall-mounted meter and a sensing head (attached to the grounding system conductor). The meter features high- and low-level alarms for instantaneous notification when the pre-set resistance values are exceeded. It features continuous monitoring of ground system resistance and current and has an RS-232 output, with remote reading and control capability.

WWW.LYNCOLE.COM

Crimping tool works in one hand

FCI's Burndy Patriot (PAT750-18V) tool offers fast crimp time, ergonomic design and an 18V NiMH battery. The tool features a pump, transmission and piston design. The self-contained hydraulic tool provides connection to 750kcmil and efficient operation.

WWW.FCICONNECT.COM

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CIRCLE (29) ON FAST FACT CARD

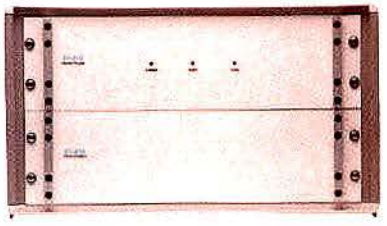
Product Encore

Antenna operates with integral ground plane

Telewave's ANT150F2 is a compact, omnidirectional collinear antenna with an integral ground plane, which covers 148MHz–174MHz. The antenna is enclosed in a rugged structural composite radome, with a total height of only 60". The antenna's gain is 2.5dB minimum, with a nominal power rating of 500W. The vertical beamwidth is 38°, allowing RF coverage of low-lying areas such as valleys and canyons. This antenna is useful for replacement of old VHF groundplane or "J-hook" type antennas. N female or optional 7/16 DIN female connectors are available. The ANT750F2 is a similar antenna that covers the 734MHz–806MHz range. Shadowing and multipath common in the upper UHF bands can be greatly reduced with this antenna. The model ANT750Y5-WR is a heavy-duty directional yagi antenna that covers 734MHz to 806MHz. The gain is 5dBd minimum, with a nominal power rating of 500W. The antenna is coated with Txylan material to eliminate damage from corrosion. The active element connection and feedline are sealed inside the antenna boom.

WWW.TELEWAVE.COM

Network switch offers wide-area coverage



SmarTrunk Systems' ST-510 network switch provides multisite, wide-area roaming capability for any SmarTrunk II system. System operators can link 32 individual sites into a single, integrated communications network. Subscribers can also have several new, advanced features such as voice prompts, digital voice mail and call.

WWW.SMARTRUNK.COM

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CIRCLE (31) ON FAST FACT CARD

Software manages SmartZone systems

GenSZAI (Genesis SmartZone Airtime Interface) from **The Genesis Group** captures all of the ATIA call packets and puts them into an SQL database. The database is used for all of the reports, graphs and queries that occur within the system. The information is accumulated and available for reporting on a near real-time basis. GenSZAI and NetVista work together with Microsoft Excel for reporting capability. Each report and graph is selectable and available on demand. The software is shipped with dozens of "canned" and custom reports. Clients can create their own ad hoc reports. Some of the canned reports include all airtime, PTTs & total airtime, busy seconds, top 40 talkgroup busies and PTT quantity & length.

WWW.GENESISWORLD.COM

Analyzers offer enhanced menu-driven interface

Anritsu's five new Site Master transmission line and antenna analyzers are designed with a configuration that detects cable feedline and antenna system problems. The menu-driven interface has been enhanced to include cable-specific folders of popular cables. The characteristics of the cables and all appropriate testing parameters are programmed in the folders, which eliminates setup error and ensures sweep accuracy. The feature complements the existing menu operations. The menu-driven interface has the ability to store as many as 10 test setups for repeatable testing, and it can store as many as 200 measurement traces in nonvolatile memory.

WWW.US.ANRITSU.COM

High-speed paging system uses GPS

Zetron's high-speed simulcast paging system uses GPS information to synchronize the transmission of paging signals to tight tolerances. This provides timing accuracy to within a few microseconds, which is necessary for many paging formats such as the Flex protocol. The system is intended for public or private paging system operators that use multiple transmitters and wish to create new paging systems or to build out existing systems into new regions. Each system consists of a model 600 Wireless Data Manager and one or more model 620 wireless data encoders.

WWW.ZETRON.COM

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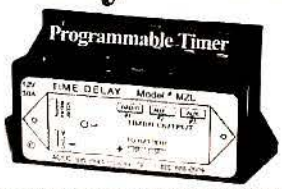

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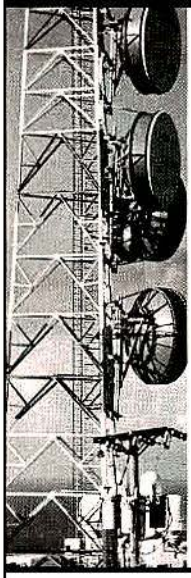

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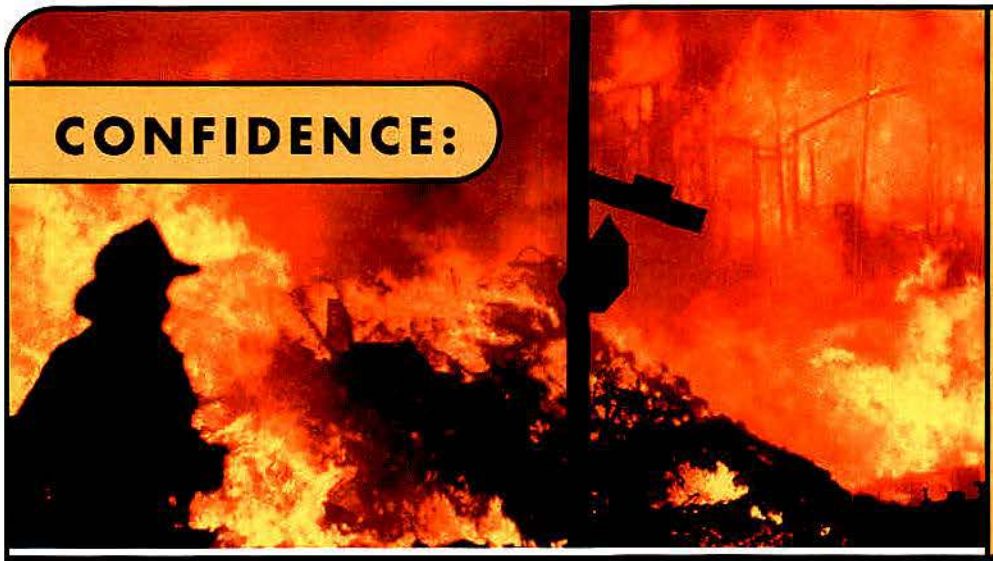

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Model 20	P1225	$ 89.95
Model 21	HT750, HT 1250/HT1550, PRO5150/7150, GP318/320/328/338/340/360/380/640/680/1280, MTX8250	$ 99.95
Model 22	EX-500, EX-600	$129.95
Model 23	Cloning Cable for EX-500, EX-600	$144.95
Model 24	Ribless Cable for MTR-2000 Repeater	$ 49.95
Model 25	CDM-1250, CDM-1550	$ 59.95
PAC - 1	Mobile Charger/Power for PA –1/2/3	$ 24.95

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PA-I Programming Adaptor...$119.95
- Compatible with "RIB" Unit
- Rugged Steel Case
- Power LED

Note: Hardware Only
Software sold by Motorola

PA-II Programming Adaptor...$139.95
- Contains Rechargeable NI-CAD Batteries
- Perfect for Field Use and Portable
- Laptop/Notebook Computers
- Status LEDs: Power On and Data Transfer
- Power Switch
- Power/Charger Included
- Runs for 8 Continuous Hours from 1 Full Charge

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D44MJA77A3 - Moto Maxtrac 100 UHF 6 Ch 40w $250.00
M11UGD6CB1 - Moto GTX 800 Mhz PP Type II 10 Ch 15w $150.00
D37MWA5GB7 - Moto Maxtrac 900 Mhz PP 30w, Conv $225.00
D35MWA5GB7 - Moto Maxtrac 800 Mhz PP 15w, Conv $125.00
D35MQA5GB5 - Moto Maxtrac 800 Mhz PP 15w, ... $75.00
SMS-825TS - Uniden 800 LTR 15w $125.00
T73KXJ7J04BK - Moto Syntor XX 9000 32Ch 100w VHF No/Acc .. $150.00
T45XAJ5G11AK - Moto Syntor 800 Mhz Type 1 45w All/Acc $75.00
D43CUA7D00AK - Moto MCX100 VHF 30w No/Acc $50.00
D45TLA5G00 - Moto Mostar 800 Mhz Type 1 ..... $25.00
T83RTA1200AA - Moto Micor 100w VHF Mobile $75.00
T73VBJD04BK - Moto Syntor XX 9000 complete kit siren package $600.00
T43UXA7H42AK - Moto MCX1000 VHF Trunk mount unit $150.00
TK-941 - Kenwood 900 Mhz LTR mobile 32 system 15w $225.00
TK-980 - Kenwood 800 Mhz LTR mobile 32 system 15w $125.00

Misc

633-6A-2N - Celwave Duplexer UHF $300.00
Model 5200 CES Interconnect Panel $275.00
Model 3500 CES Interconnect Panel $200.00
RELM Emergency repeaters 1 tone VHF $325.00
T800 TAIT TX/RX pair 72 Mhz $750.00
TWR8-150 Telewave Multicoupler 8Ch VHF $750.00
Zetron Model 37 Repeaterman $100.00
Zetron Model 48 Max interconnect panel $600.00
RELM Desktop UHF Repeater 45w 450-470 ..... $600.00
30-37-04 TX/RX Systems Duplexer $750.00
860 PMTS Terminal $75.00

E09DAL1000DR Moto Modax 500 ..... $100.00
PPL6050 Ef Johnson VHF Base w/power supply and desk mic . $125.00

Portables

P94MGC20A2AA - Moto GP350 UHF 2Ch 4w complete $325.00
P94YQT20A2AA - Moto SP50 UHF 2Ch 4w complete $250.00
P94YPC20A2AA - Moto GP300 UHF 2Ch 4w Complete $250.00
H01KDC9AA1 - Moto HT1000 VHF 2Ch 5w complete $350.00
H01RDC9AA1 - Moto HT1000 UHF 2Ch 4w complete $225.00
H01UCD6CB1 - Moto MTX8000 800 Mhz PP type I trunking .. $150.00
H11WCD6CU1 - Moto GTX 900 Mhz PP 10Ch 2.5w $200.00
H35JNC5170 - Moto STX 800 Mhz type I trunking $125.00
Moto HT90 VHF 2Ch 5w No/Acc $45.00
P23RRC20F2 - Moto SP10 VHF dip switch No/Acc $75.00
P9RMA - GE MPS 64Ch Scan UHF 5w No/Antennas $50.00
242-8100 - EF Johnson Viking 800 Mhz LTR complete $125.00
242-8150 - EF Johnson Avenger 800 Mhz LTR complete $125.00
Moto SP50 VHF 150-174 Mhz 10Ch 5w $225.00

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Moto STX/MX Rapid bank charger $50.00
NMN6193 Jedi Series lapel mics $40.00
L1261A Moto PP Local Remote $50.00
DR10 CPI Comm Remote $50.00
HLN1185B System 900 Siren Box $50.00
HSN4030 Moto 80HM Ext speakers (new) $30.00
HKN6103 Ignition sense cable kit $4.00
SL-11R Astron Power supply $75.00
SL-11 Duracomm Power supply $45.00

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Pack Your Suitcase

June

16–20: NENA, sponsored by National Emergency Number Association, Indianapolis. **www.nena9-1-1.org.**

23–26: UTC Telecom, sponsored by the United Telecom Council, MGM Grand, Las Vegas. **www.utc.org.**

25–26: 16th Annual Police Security Expo, Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ. **www.police-security.com.**

26: Region 40 700MHz Public Safety Regional Planning Meeting, 9 a.m., North Central Texas Council of Governments, Arlington, TX. Email: Peter Ungar, *UngarP@ci.fort-worth.tx.us.*

July

14–17: Forestry Conservation Communications Association National Conference, Radisson's Fort Magruger Hotel and Conference Center, Williamsburg, VA. **www.fcca.info.**

August

11–15: APCO Conference & Exposition, sponsored by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials–International, Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN. **www.apcointl.org.**

September

17–18: C.O.P.S. West, produced by the California Peace Officers' Association, Ontario Convention Center, Ontario, CA. **www.copswest.com.**

October

5–9: 109th Annual IACP Conference: Law Enforcement Education Technical Exposition, Minneapolis. **www.theiacp.org.**

7–9: AMTEX 2002, Westin Fort Lauderdale hotel, Fort Lauderdale, FL. **www.amtausa.org.**

16–18: CTIA Wireless I.T. & Internet, sponsored by the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association, Sands Expo & Convention Center, Las Vegas. **wwwctiashow.com.**

November

5–6: Expo Comm Canada Communications, sponsored by the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association, Metro Toronto Convention Center, Toronto. **www.cwta.ca.**

6–9: Private Wireless Summit, sponsored by the Industrial Telecommunications Association, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington. 703-528-5115 or **www.ita-relay.com.**

13–17: Communications Marketing Conference, sponsored by the Communications Marketing Association, Wyndham Resort & Spa, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. **www.commktga.com.**

22: Radio Club of America Annual Awards Banquet and Technical Symposium, New York Athletic Club, New York. **www.radio-club-of-america.org.**

2003

March

9–15: International Wireless Communications Expo, co-sponsored by *Mobile Radio Technology*, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas. **www.iwceexpo.com.**

30–April 2: Entelec, Austin Convention Center, Austin, TX. **www.entelec.org.**

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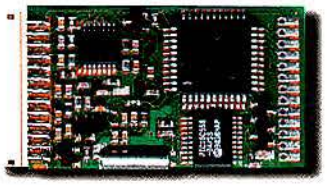
General Dynamics Decision Systems	13	12	877-449-0600
ICOM America	5	6	206-450-6041
IDA Corporation	26	23	701-280-1122
JPS Communications	24	21	919-790-1011
Klein Electronics	38	104	760-781-3232
Lattice Communications	20-21	19	972-496-7775
M/A-Com	1	4	434-385-2571
Midian Electronics	IBC	2	520-884-7981
Modular Communications	7	8	818-764-1333
Norcomm Corp	6	7	800-874-8663
Omnicron Electronics	32	30	860-928-0377
Polaris Industries	39	106	404-872-0722
Pryme Radio	28	26	714-257-0300
Sierra Two Way	39	107	916-344-3612
SoftWright	35	102	303-344-5486
Survey Technologies	38	105	503-848-8500
Swager Communications	37	103	800-968-5601
Telewave Inc	3	5	650-968-4400
Thunder Eagle	26	24	703-242-0122
Vega/Telex Signaling	16	14	402-467-5321
Vertex Standard	IFC	1	310-404-2700
W&W Manufacturing	23	20	800-221-0732
Zetron Inc.	15	13	425-820-6363



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- High security - 1 trillion possible codes
- Superior audio quality
- Fleet management w/ CAD or DDU-300: ANI, Selcall, OTAR, & Deadbeat Disable

1200 Baud Data Modem

- Designed specifically for radio use
- Transparent or addressable modes
- Features data buffering & flow control

Speech Inversion Scramblers

- VPU-11: Factory programmable to any inversion code between 2000-4096 Hz
- VPU-12: 16-code version: 2200-4096 Hz
- VPU-15: 4-codes, ANI & encode/decode

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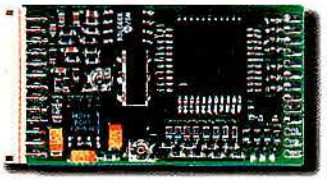
- Remote access/disconnect using DTMF
- Programmable hang time/time-out timer
- 2 selectable Morse IDs, CTCSS filter

We've Got It All!

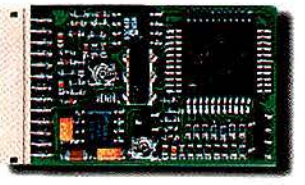
OEM Plug-In Products

- For Motorola, Icom, Maxon, Tait & Vertex
- We offer: Rolling code & inversion voice scramblers, ANI, & decoders



CTCSS/DCS Encoders/Decoders

- 38 CTCSS codes plus splits
- 106 DCS codes
- 64 memories (6-line binary)
- Available with ANI, TOT, & Penalty

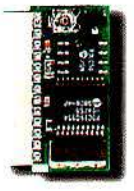


Universal Encoders/Decoders

- 2-tone, 5-tone, DTMF, &/or Pulse tone
- Features include ANI, selective calling, transpond, Deadbeat Disable, and more
- Microphone/dashmount versions available

Computer-Aided Dispatch

- MDC-1200®, DTMF, 5-tone, & GE-Star®
- Most models offer: aliasing, logging, spy, radio check, & Deadbeat Disable



Automatic Number Identifiers

- Available in MDC-1200®, GE-Star®, DTMF, 5-tone, & 2-tone
- Features time-out timer, emergency ANI, & leading &/or trailing ANI

Desktop Display Unit

- DDU Series: ANI Display Decoder with aliasing & last 10 ANI recall
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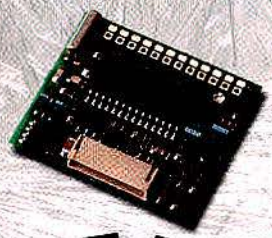

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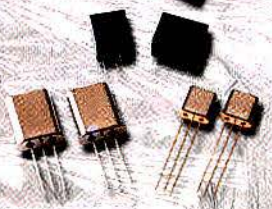
Digital Coded Squelch Encoder-Decoder
Jumper Programmable to all 106 DCS codes.
1.36" x 1.18" x 0.25"
$59.95



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Automatic Morse Station Identifier
Meets all FCC ID requirements.
Fully field programmable with included keypad.
1.85" x 1.12" x .35"
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Desktop Paging Encoder
Two-Tone Sequential.
Other formats and custom tones available.
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CTCSS Encoder
Microminiature, DIP switch programmable.
Includes 64 tones from 33.0 to 254.1 Hz.
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TE-32
Multi-tone CTCSS Encoder
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Shared Repeater Tone Panel
Full featured and with all 157 CTCSS/DCS codes.
Desktop and rack mounted versions.
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TS-64
CTCSS Encoder-Decoder
Microminiature jumper programmable.
Includes 64 tones from 33.0 to 254.1 Hz.
0.78" x 1.70" x 0.25"
$54.95 (model TS-64DS with DIP switch, $57.95)

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LINE OF TONE SIGNALING AND ENCRYPTION PRODUCTS, TO BETTER FULFILL YOUR TONE SIGNALING REQUIREMENTS.

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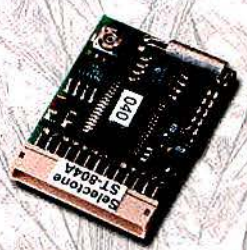
Voice Encryption Units
PRIVATE COLLECTION™ series provides low to high level security for two-way radio voice applications.
PC programmable with optional kit.
0.9" x 1.5" x 0.25"
$79.00 - $299.00



ST-804A
Multi Format Encoder
Encodes Two-Tone Sequential, Burst Tone, or DTMF ANI/ENI Formats.
PC programmable with optional kit, or factory programmed for free.
1.15" x 0.84 x 0.15"
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Decodes address codes of 1 to 7 digits from all 16 DTMF characters.
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